

Serial No. 10/635,515 8
Docket No. F03-156154M/NY

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-15, and 16-23 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 to define the claimed invention more particularly.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims are allowable. However, merely in an effort to speed prosecution and to place the Application in condition for immediate allowance, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matter of claims 4 and 15 into independent claims 1 and 12 respectively.

Applicants believe that entry of these amendments is proper because no new issues are raised, which would require further search and/or consideration.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, Applicants requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: March 11, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,



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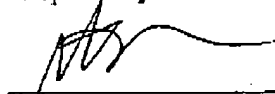
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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 2824, at (571) 273-8300, on March 11, 2008.

Date: March 11, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,



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